STATUS: DRAFT

RESOLUTION:	**W2018-SBX**
TITLE:	**Process for New Club Sports**
SPONSOR:	**John Gosselin, Atwater Senator**
	Rae Aaron, Speaker
	Jack Goldfield, Sophomore Senator
DATE:	**January 21, 2018**

Whereas official student organizations and club sports are a central element of students' Middlebury experience and their creation and funding are core functions of the SGA;

Whereas there is potential for additional successful club sports that are in line with Middlebury's Student Activities role as stated on the Middlebury website: "To oversee programs designed to enhance students' college lives through social, cultural, spiritual, educational, student government, and physical co-curricular experiences. Student Activities is committed to helping students connect with one another and to facilitat[e] involvement in a wide variety of activities."

Whereas the Middlebury Club Sports Policy states that "Club sports fill a critical role in the overall Middlebury. Students may apply for new sports through the Student Government Association. Approval for new club sports is contingent upon the availability of appropriate facilities, storage, and staff oversight, and does not automatically guarantee funding."

Whereas the Student Activities Office has impeded the sovereignty of the SGA by vetoing SGA Student Club Oversight Committee's approval of clubs sports, notably on October 16, 2017 as new student organizations on the basis that...

1) There is a Middlebury policy that you cannot have a club sport if there is an identical existing varsity sport,
2) Club Sports are a financial liability;

Whereas Club Tennis provides a competitive and fun opportunity for non-varsity tennis players otherwise not offered at Middlebury, but central to many students' college experience;

Whereas the SGA takes seriously the responsibility to allocate the Student Activities Fee justly to all students while taking into account the constraints of the budget;

Whereas in the case of club sports being expensive, the SGA should have a more stringent process for approving and sustaining them;

Be it therefore resolved…

That the Student Government Association recommends the below process for new club sport approval;

1. Prior to applying to become an official club sport, groups must apply to be a **Provisional Club Sport (PCS) for two years**. The PCS shall receive the minimum discretionary $200 for any new club admitted by the SOOC, an email address, and index code.
2. After a two year period, if the PCS demonstrates sustainability, it may apply to SOOC to become a full club sport. SOOC may either grant it full club sport status, extend the PCS status for a year, or deny the PCS;
3. The creation of a joint SOOC-Finance Committee specifically used to review PCS applications;
4. The joint committee will consist of the Finance and SOOC chairpersons, in addition to two members of each committee.
5. If approved by the joint SOOC-Finance Committee, the provisional club sport application will come to the Senate for a final vote of approval;
6. For the first year of being an official club, the club sport will be capped at $1,000 as mandated by the SGA Constitution**;**
7. After the first year, the new club sport will automatically receive a maximum funding cap of $1,000 - this funding will be reviewed on a yearly basis;
8. A member of the finance committee should be designated as the liaison to the new club sport to discuss accessibility, distribution of in-club fees, and overall club sustainability;
9. The SGA Treasurer or a member of the finance committee shall include at the last Senate meeting of the fall and spring semesters, new club sports leaders must present a report regarding their sustainability, usage of funds, and inclusivity;

That, regarding budget caps;

1. Rather than club sports appealing their budget cap directly to the Senate, they shall appeal to SOOC, which shall make a recommendation to the Senate within two weeks of the appeal;
2. The Senate can either let the SOOC decision stand or vote to appeal it;

That, the Finance Committee Policies regarding Club Sports be changed according to the following:

1. Add “The SGA Finance Committee expects that club sports fundraise for their activities to an adequate level and will ask student organization leaders about their fundraising activities in detail when they present before the committee, giving them the guidance required to fundraise successfully.”

That, the Finance Committee Policies regarding Handouts and Restrictions be changed according to the following:

1. Change “While the Finance Committee allocates money to student organizations for food, we do not allow purchasing of ‘handouts’ for most reasons.” To “The SGA Finance Committee does not allocate money for ‘handouts’, including snacks. Food expenditures besides snacks will be funded at the discretion of the committee.”

Finally, that the SGA maintains the right to revoke new club sports funding at any time in order to maintain its fiscal responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,

John Gosselin, Atwater Senator SOOC Member
Jack Goldfield, Sophomore Senator and Athletic Affairs Committee Member
Rae Aaron, Speaker